

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 7 was pending. Claims 13-46 were withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 7 and 13-46 have been canceled and claims 47-85 have been added, in the present response. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 47-85 will be pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,452,482 to Cern ("Cern") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,070,572 to Summerhayes ("Summerhayes"). Claims 13-46 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention under 37 CFR § 1.142(b). Claims 7 and 13-46 have been canceled and claims 47-85 have been added.

Briefly, in one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a system for providing communications over an electric power system having a medium voltage power line. The inventive system includes transformer bypass devices that are communicatively coupled to the medium voltage power line and to one or more customer power lines to provide a data path that bypasses the transformers. The inventive system also includes an aggregation device that is communicatively coupled to the transformer bypass devices via the medium voltage power line to form a portion of a data path between the medium voltage power line and a point of presence.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references, including either Cern or Summerhayes, teach or even suggest the presently claimed invention.

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Application No.: 09/915,459

Office Action Dated: January 14, 2004

PATENT

Also, applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS). The Examiner is respectfully asked to initial and consider the patentability of the present invention in light of the newly-cited references submitted herewith in the SIDS.

Finally, in response to the Examiner's comments with regard to the number of references cited in the present application, applicants note that the previous submission of references and the present submission of references in the SIDS are made in compliance with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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